

Always more than a radio station, it belonged to the community and was the heart of the community. So I congratulate Melody Spann Cooper and all of those who have made WVON what it is today: the voice of the Nation.

Congratulations to WVON Radio on fifty years of broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker, On April 1, 1963, WVON Radio in Chicago, Illinois was launched and since that time has gone from being "the voice of the negro" to "the voice of the Nation." WVON began when two brothers, Leonard and Phil Chess, the owners of Chess Records, a successful record company with a plentiful supply of local music talent under their banner, such as Muddy Waters, Lil' Howlin Wolf, Jimmy Reed and others, who needed an outlet for their music. Therefore, the brothers bought WHFC-1450 AM, a 1000 watt station licensed in Cicero, Illinois.

On April 1, 1963, WVON hit the airwaves in Chicago with a group of hand-picked personalities: Franklin McCarthy, E. Rodney Jones, Herb Kent, Wesley South, and Pervis Spann. They became known as "The Good Guys" and Ric Ricardo, Bill "Butterball" Crane, Ed Cook, Joe Cobb, Roy Wood, Ed Maloney, Bill "Doc" Lee, Don Cornelius, Richard Pegue, Isabel Joseph Johnson, Cecil Hale, and McKee Fithugh eventually joined the roster. Under the direction of the station's general manager, Lucky Cordell, and its "Ambassador of Good Will", Bernadine C. Washington, The Good Guys held Black Chicago captive for more than a decade and ranked consistently in the top five of the most listened to stations in the market.

The power of WVON went beyond the Chicago market. Berry Gordy, the founder of Motown Records had a special arrangement with WVON that every song he produced would be sent immediately to WVON before any other station. WVON was so powerful that it produced airplay in other markets, which impacted the overall sales and success of the project.

WVON has always been more than a radio station. During a time when Blacks were actively involved in the civil rights movement, WVON was the voice of information for local and national affairs. During the riots that followed the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., WVON on-air personalities were there to lift the tension that had erupted in neighborhoods across the city. They pleaded for calmness.

Following the death of Chess in 1969, the family decided to sell WVON to George Gillette (heir to the Shaving Products Company) and to Potter Palmer (heir to Palmer house) who formed Globetrotter Communications.

Their first order of business was to take WVON from 1450 frequency to 5,000 watt 1390 signal, which would improve their coverage of Chicago. The 1450 frequency was left dormant.

In 1977, Globetrotter Communications sold WVON to the Gannett Company, whose major holdings were in print media. Gannett had purchased an FM station in Chicago which became known as WGCI. In 1979, Wesley South and Pervis Spann formed Midway Broadcasting Corporation and purchased the license for the 1450 AM frequency.

Their station WXOL premiered in August of 1979 and remains one of the few minority-owned stations in the market. WVON became a mixed music/talk radio station and with Wes-

ley South, the hotline show in the evening with journalist Lu Palmer doing a notebook series called "Lou's notebook." Lou spearheaded the election of Harold Washington as Chicago's first Black mayor with the slogan, "We Shall See in '83."

Upon the urging of Wesley South, a radio talk show pioneer, WVON changed to a talk format and has never looked back. It has been instrumental in not only electing Harold Washington as Chicago's first Black mayor, but also in electing Carol Mosley Braun, U.S. Senator; Barack Obama, United States Senator; and Barack Obama, President of the United States of America.

WVON's current line-up of hosts are some of the best in the Nation: Cliff Kelly, called the governor of talk radio; Matt McGill; Perry Small; Reverend Al Sharpton; Saleem Muwakil; Kendall Moore; Dr. Leon Finney; and from time to time, Pam Morris, Dr. Terry Mason, and countless others who buy time like Garfield Major, talking to the people.

Congratulations to Melody Spann Cooper and all of those who have helped to make WVON Radio what it is today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Robert Silvers, Congregation B'Nai Israel, Boca Raton, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we children of humanity pray to You by many names, but in our hearts we all know You as One. Your unity creates the common bond between us and is our common bond with You. And though Your absolute truth eludes us, nonetheless we strive to be more like You and to carry out Your will for humanity: that we live together in peace.

And though some seek to disrupt the peace and deprive us of our very lives, as we witnessed in Boston, we pray, O God, that their actions be thwarted and that You continue to shelter us with Your canopy of peace. Send healing of body and soul, O God, to the victims of this act of terror, to our Nation, and to all who grieve with them. Keep forever in Your loving embrace the souls of those who lost their lives.

We pray that those who do harm be brought to justice and that You, O God, instill in all peoples everywhere a love of humanity and a respect for each and every human being created in Your divine image.

Help us, O God, to realize that each of us holds a glimpse of something

greater; though created mortal and fallible, we need Your gifts of wisdom and patience to find partners, even in surprising and unlikely places, with whom we must work together to benefit our country and our world.

We turn to You, Source of Peace, to inspire and support the leaders of our Nation to find accord even in these times of challenge. May it be Your will that in recognizing the Unity of the Divine, they will strive to foster a similar unity among themselves for the sake of this great Nation.

Joining together, we say the Hebrew word affirming faith; faith in each other, continued faith in humanity, and faith in the Holiness beyond us.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANKFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI ROBERT SILVERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to have the opportunity to welcome one of my constituents, Rabbi Robert Silvers, of the Congregation B'Nai Israel in Boca Raton, Florida, as he offered the opening prayer here today. He is a leader in the Jewish community in south Florida. His life epitomizes the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam—bettering the world.

Rabbi Silvers' impact is felt well beyond the 1,200 families of Congregation B'Nai Israel, with pastoral work and care that he provides not only to his own congregation but also to the greater local community as a volunteer chaplain for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. He has served as president of the Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis and as president of the Greater Boca Raton Religious Leaders Association, an interfaith coalition of clergy. Rabbi Silvers has been involved in education and interfaith dialogue throughout south Florida.

I'm proud to call Rabbi Silvers and his wife, Ava, friends. I welcome them and all of his congregants who watched